

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

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E. O. 11652

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: JUNE 6 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY

1. NEWSMEN COVERING RESUMPTION OF HAK- THO TALKS FIND LITTLE HARD NEWS. AT RECEPTION, ACCORDING NYT, THACH SAID HE DIDN' T KNOW WHETHER TODAY' S SESSION WILL BE LAST ONE, AND DISMISSED ZIEGLER PRESENCE WITH, " THEY CAN BRING ANYONE THEY LIKE. WE ARE NEGOTIATING WITH MR. KISSINGER." OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHING OF NEGOTIATORS YESTERDAY SEEN AS POSSIBLE INDICATOR TALKS NEAR END. POST' S RANDAL REPORTS " OBSERVERS" SKEPTICAL ABOUT EFFECTIVENESS OF ANY NEW AGREEMENT, AND BELIEVE CAMBODIA SETTLEMENT BEYOND HAK' S GRASP BECAUSE OF SINO- SOVIET DIFFERENCES OVER SIHANOUK' S FUTURE ROLE. CSM' S OKA SAYS THIEU DESPERATELY WANTS AVOID HAVING TEMPORARY TRUCE LINES CONVERTED INTO RECOGNIZED ADMINISTRATIVE ZONES OF CONTROL UNDER VC, BUT IF ALL C- F PROVISIONS ARE STRICTLY APPLIED, EFFECT WILL BE JUST THAT. OKA ALSO QUOTES DRV SOURCE THAT NEW AGREEMENT WILL NOT EXTEND TO CAMBODIA. SIHANOUK VEHEMENTLY OBJECTS TO DEALING WITH LON NOL AND US IS SAID TO HAVE RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDED TIME NOT RIPE FOR MEDIATION ATTEMPT (CHITRIB , SUN, CSM, NYDN, WP, NYT).

2. NYT' S BROWNE INTERVIEWS PRINCESS BOPHA DEVI AND OTHER MEMBERS OF FORMER KHMER ROYAL FAMILY AND FINDS THEM WELL BUT RELUCTANT DISCUSS POLITICAL SITUATION. TWO PRINCELY FORMER KHMER AIR FORCE PILOTS DEPLORE WHAT THEY DESCRIBE AS INDISCRIMINATE US BOMBING, BUT SAY THEY DON' T BLAME US OR AMERICAN PEOPLE. BROWNE SAYS LON NOL HAS DECIDED SHOW MORE CONSIDERATION FOR ROYAL FAMILY " SINCE IT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY EVIDENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE TO DEAL WITH PRINCE SIHANOUK IF THE WAR IS EVER TO END."

3. SUN' S WOODRUFF IN HONG KONG, REPORTS THAT TRAVELERS FROM CAMBODIA ARE INCREASINGLY CONVINCED THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE OF SALVAGING ANY PRO- US GOVERNMENT IN PP FOR THE LONG TERM. THERE UNCLASSIFIED

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IS UNACCUSTOMED UNANIMITY IN THE VIEW THAT THERE IS NO REALISTIC CHANCE OF RALLYING ENOUGH ANTI-SIHANOUK ELEMENTS TO PUT TOGETHER A FORCE THAT COULD SURVIVE FOR LONG. HOWEVER, SOME DIPLOMATS SEE CHANCES OF SHORT- TERM RELIEF FROM FIGHTING IN INSPIRED LEAKS ABOUT MEETINGS BETWEEN EMISSARIES OF LON NOL ANDSIHANOUK, IN NVN OFFICIALS HAVING MET WITH PEN NOUTH IN PEKING, AND IN LON NOL HAVING SENT EMISSARY TO PARIS. SOME DIPLOMATS ARGUE THAT HANOI, WHOSE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE IS SAIGON RATHER THAN PP, MAY BE WILLING TO LIMIT SUPPLIES TO ITS CLIENTS AND TONE DOWN FIGHTING IN CAMBODIA IN EXCHANGE FOR CONCESSIONS IN SVN.

4. SHARP FIGHTING CONTINUES IN DELTA NEAR CAI LAY AND CAI BE, AND GVN CLAIMS COMMUNISTS SHELL 8 ARVN POSITIONS IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE. WP SAYS FIELD REPORTS FROM DELTA CONTRADICT GVN ASSERTIONS THAT FIGHTING BEGAN WITH VC ATTACK ON GOVT. POSITIONS. FIELDS REPORTS COMMUNISTS AMBUSHED GOVT. FORCE ON PATROL POSSIBLY TO EXTEND THEIR AREA OF CONTROL. ARVN REPORTEDLY PUT ON ALERT FOR POSSIBLE LAND-GRABBING OPS BY VC/ NVA IN ADVANCE OF NEW C- F ARRANGEMENTS (NYT, SUN, POST).

5. WP SAYS SINCE SIHANOUK' S OUSTER, ANTIGOVERNMENT FORCES HAVE " PUSHED GOVERNMENT TROOPS FROM VIRTUALLY ALL OF CAMBODIA" EXCEPT FOR PHNOM PENH AND SEVERAL PROVINCIAL TOWNS.

ALL PAPERS FEATURE CONTINUED HEAVY MILITARY ACTION IN INDOCHINA. POST' S LIPPMAN REPORTS ANTIGOVERNMENT FORCES CUT HIGHWAY 4 TO SEA 15 MILES FROM PP WHILE FANK REPORTEDLY HAS CLEARED ENEMY FROM HIGHWAY 5 TO RICE-GROWING AREA IN NORTHWEST. UPI REPORTS (NYT) ENEMY FORCES PENETRATE MARKET PLACE OF ANG SNOUL DISTRICT TOWN NEAR PP ON HIGHWAY 4. AP REPORTS (SUN) US AND KHMER PLANES RAKE ENEMY POSITIONS ON BOTH SIDES OF HIGHWAY 4. (ALSO REPORTED IN CHITRIB AND NYDN).

6. FROM SAIGON, LAT' S LESLIE JUNE 6) REPORTS
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RUMORS AND FEARS ATTENDING GVN- ORDERED CLOSURE SIX WEEKS AGO OF TIN NGHIA BANKS AND SUMMARY ARREST OF ITS HEAD, NGUYEN TAN DOI, WHO WAS LOWER HOUSE DEPUTY, RECENTLY ELECTED SAIGON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT, FRIEND OF MANY OF SVN' S LEADERS. DOI' S ARREST AND CONVICTION FOR ENGAGING IN ILLEGAL BANKING PRACTICES THOUGHT NOT TO EXPLAIN THOROUGHNESS AND SEVERITY OF GVN ACTION. SVN' S NATIONAL BANK PRESIDENT SUGGESTS AS REASON FOR ACTION THAT DOI WAS IN PROCESS OF BUYING UP WHOLE ECONOMY, BUT MOST PERSISTENT RUMOR WAS THAT DOI FORESAW TIME WHEN HE WOULD BE LEADER IN VN. THUS, ONE HYPOTHESIS IS THAT THIEU CRACKED DOWN ON DOI TO END ANY POSSIBILITY THAT HE WOULD BECOME POLITICAL THREAT.

7. THANOM SAYS TERRORIST VIOLENCE HAS DROPPED OFF BUT SUBVERSIVE PROPAGANDA AND RECRUITMENT OF VILLAGERS INTO COMMUNIST RANKS HAS INCREASED. BLAMES PROBLEM ON COMMUNIST CONTROL OF LARGE AREAS OF LAOS AND CAMBODIA (AP, PHINQ, NYDN, WP).

8. NYT PUBLISHES THANAT KHOMAN ARTICLE
QUESTIONING ON LEGAL, MORAL AND PRACTICAL GROUNDS US USE

OF THAI BASES FOR AIR STRIKES. SAYS UNDER C- F AGREEMENTS, IT BEHOOVES SIGNATORIES, INCLUDING US, TO USE ICCS OR RECONVENE PARIS CONFERENCE WHEN VIOLATIONS OCCUR. USE OF THAI BASES FOR BOMBING VIOLATES INTERNATIONAL LAW SINCE THAILAND NOT A PARTY EITHER TO C- F AGREEMENTS OR THE PARIS CONFERENCE. FACT THAT US ARMED FORCES HAVE BEEN ADMITTED BY THAI AUTHORITIES WITHOUT WRITTEN OFFICIAL AGREEMENTS SPECIFYING THE PURPOSES, DURATION AND OTHER CONDITIONS OF THEIR STAY, DOES NOT ENTITLE THEM TO COMMIT ACTS OF WAR AGAINST THIRD PARTIES WITH WHICH THAILAND IS NOT IN CONFLICT. BY SO DOING, THEY IMPLICATE HOST COUNTRY IN A DE FACTO STATE OF WAR WITHOUT ITS CONSENT OR APPROVAL. LEGALLY, THEREFORE, US FACES RESPONSIBILITY FOR VIOLATIONS OF AGREEMENT AND FOR PERPETRATING ACTS OF WAR FROM A NEUTRAL STATE WITHOUT ITS APPROVAL. FOR THAILAND, US FORCES BRING SEQUEL OF SOCIAL ILLS, MORAL DETERIORATION AND ECON DISTURBANCES; THEY PLAY NO ROLE IN THAI INSURGENCY PROBLEMS AND DO NOT ENHANCE THAI SECURITY.

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9. WHITLAM SAYS GOA IS SEEKING MODIFICATION OF 1963 AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH U. S. HAS MILITARY INSTALLATIONS ON AUSTRALIA' S NW CAPE (REUTER, WP). PM AT DELHI NEWS CONFERENCE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION SAID BASES HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED WITH U. S., AND DEFENSE MINISTER BARNARD WILL VISIT U. S. LATER THIS YEAR; BUT REFUSED SPECIFY WHAT CHANGES GOA SEEKS IN PACT. WHITLAM ALSO SAID AUSTRALIA DOES NOT INTEND WITHDRAW FROM SEATO, BUT WILL NOT TOLERATE " ANTI- CHINESE ASPECT OF IT." DOS CONFIRMS TALKS HAVE BEEN HELD WITH GOA ON MODIFYING BASE PACT AND THAT BARNARD EXPECTED HERE LATER IN YEAR (NYT).

10. SABHARWAL (SUN) REPORTS WHITLAM ALSO SAID GOA " DOES NOT PROPOSE ANY RADICAL CHANGE FROM OUR TRADITIONAL, CLOSE FRIENDSHIP" WITH U. S., BUT SEEKS " MORE MATURE" AND " GIVE- AND- TAKE RELATIONSHIP." ADDS U. S. " WOULD NOT EXPECT ANY COUNTRY NOW TO UNDERTAKE" 1963- TYPE AGREEMENT.

11. TRADE MINISTER CAIRNS DECLARES THAT FULLER SINO- AUSTRALIA FRIENDSHIP WOULD BE IMPEDED IF PEKING CONTINUES NUCLEAR TESTING, AND HE WOULD SUPPORT LEGITIMATE PROTESTS AGAINST SUCH TESTING (AP, NYDN).

12. AUSTRALIAN POST OFFICE HOLDING 750 BAGS OF MAIL FROM FRANCE AND 65 BAGS ADDRESSED TO FRANCE IN POSTAL WORKERS' PROTEST AGAINST FRENCH A- TESTING IN S. PACIFIC (UPI, WP).

13. SAAR (WP) REPORTS JAI HYON LEE, ROK' S CHIEF CULTURAL AND INFORMATION ATTACHE IN U. S. FOR PAST 3 YEARS, HAS RESIGNED, REQUESTED PERMANENT U. S. RESIDENCE AND GONE INTO HIDING, CLAIMING HE FEARS REPRISALS BY ROK CIA.

LEE CHARGES ROK CIA, WORKING OUT OF ROK EMBASSY HERE
AND CONSULATES ACROSS COUNTRY, CONDUCTS ILLEGAL
SURVEILLANCE AND INTIMIDATION OPERATIONS AGAINST ROK
CITIZENS IN US. LEE DEPLORES ABSENCE OF CIVIL LIBERTIES
UNDER PARK. DOS SPOKESMAN SAYS COMPLAINTS OF " INAPPRO-
PRIATE" ROK CIA PRESSURES ON KOREAN RESIDENTS OF U. S.
HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF ROK AUTHORITIES HERE.

14. IN LETTER TO NYT EDITOR, EX- DOS LEGAL OFFICER
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STEPHEN SCHWEBEL, JOHNS HOPKINS INTERNATIONAL LAW
PROF, CONTENDS THAT FRANCE HAS ACTED WITH CONTEMPT
OF ICJ BY REFUSING TO ACCEPT ICJ JURISDICTION OVER
CASE BROUGHT BY AUSTRALIA AND NZ TO ENJOIN FURTHER
NUCLEAR TESTING BY FRANCE IN S. PACIFIC ATMOSPHERE. ROGERS

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